

Filed for intro on 05/29/2001

HOUSE RESOLUTION 136

By Fitzhugh

A RESOLUTION To commend Fred Montgomery of Henning for his honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee as Mayor of Henning.

WHEREAS, It is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Fred Montgomery is one such person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his exemplary tenure as Mayor of Henning, Fred Montgomery has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to his community; and

WHEREAS, Under the leadership of Mayor Montgomery, the township of Henning has experienced growth in population and revenues and an improved standard of living for its citizens unlike any time in Henning's history; and

WHEREAS, A few of Mayor Montgomery's major community improvements include the paving of streets downtown, the installing of street lights, and the providing of gas, water, and sewage services; in addition, he has increased the above-ground storage capacity of water from

30,000 gallons to 300,000 gallons, secured a \$500,000 grant and put a new sewage system in a local residential area off Highway 209, remodeled City Hall, and built a fire station; and

WHEREAS, Ever alert to the needs of his citizens, Mayor Montgomery has orchestrated the building of new homes for the needy at a cost of \$50,000 each, at no cost to the families, completed a 24-unit housing project for low-income families, and played a major role in the development of two new housing projects; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Montgomery also was instrumental in establishing the Haley House Museum and Henning Village Housing, had a significant role in attracting Todd Uniform Company to Henning, and secured the deed to Palmer-Turner School and returned its property back to the city of Henning; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Montgomery's remarkable success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and his uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Montgomery is an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people whom life has treated unkindly, and he epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant, and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, His many accomplishments aside, Mayor Montgomery is fortunate to share both love and companionship with his wife, Mary Earnestine Bonds; their union has produced 11 children (one stillborn), 25 grandchildren, 29 great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Coupled with an intense desire and faith in God to succeed in spite of a limited education, racism, and the ever-present threat of poverty, Mayor Montgomery and his supportive spouse succeeded in accomplishing many of their dreams and much more; and

WHEREAS, Through God's grace, they have risen from the shadow of tenant farmer to master plumber to Henning's first black Alderman, Mayor, and Township Judge; and

WHEREAS, The seventh of 13 children, Fred Montgomery was born on November 22, 1916, to Fred Montgomery, Sr., and Lonie Hawkins Montgomery; and

WHEREAS, Through the years, Fred Montgomery has been both spiritual- and civic-minded; a life-long member of New Hope C.M.E., he served as the youngest member of the Board of Stewards; for nearly 45 years, he was the Superintendent of the Sunday School and Chairman of Stewards for over 40 years; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Montgomery is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that has earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we hereby commend Fred Montgomery for his honorable and astute service to the good people of Tennessee as Mayor of Henning and salute his unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.